

Message Text

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R 261508Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, SY
SUBJECT: BAKERIES IN SYRIA: AGROSTRUCT CONTRACT

REF: DAMASCUS 3052

1. PURSUANT YOUR RECOMMENDATION, ARN SPOKE TO AGROSTRUCT VICE PRESIDENT FULLER ON DECEMBER 24, CARLSEN BEING UNAVAILABLE. FULLER SAID HIS INFORMATION IS THAT DABBAS DELEGATION IS TO ARRIVE NEW YORK ON JANUARY 13. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S CHECKING THIS WITH DABBAS.

2. FULLER WAS QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CONTRACT AND OPTIMISTIC THAT SYRIANS WILL SIGN. HIS MAIN CONCERN NOW IS FINANCING. AGROSTRUCT HAS GOTTEN TOTALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM EX-IM; FULLER THINKS HE MAY HAVE POSSIBILITY OF FINANCING FROM ARAB SOURCES BUT TERMS ARE NOT RPT NOT ATTRACTIVE. THIS IS ONE OF MAIN POINTS HE WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH DABBAS.

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3. WE DISCUSSED WITH FULLER QUESTION OF OTHER ACTIVITIES

DABBAS AND HIS PEOPLE MIGHT UNDERTAKE IN US. FULLER POINTED OUT THAT HIS AGREEMENT WITH SYRIANS IS THAT THEY WILL PAY THEIR WAY TO AND FROM NEW YORK BUT AGROSTRUCT PICKS UP TAB FOR EVERYTHING IN US. FULLER IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO HAVE GROUP COME TO WASHINGTON FOR A DAY OR TWO IF WE THINK IT USEFUL BUT OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO SEE COSTS RUN UP BY

SIZEABLE ADDITIONS TO GROUP'S US ITINERARY. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND SINCE USG HAS NO FUNDS TO PICK UP TAB FOR GROUP'S TRAVEL, WE DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE IDEA OF SIDE TRAVEL IN US. YOU MAY INFORM DABBAS THAT IF HE WANTS TO COME TO WASHINGTON WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE, AND WITH STATE IF HE SO DESIRES BUT LEAVE MATTER ENTIRELY UP TO HIM.

KISSINGER

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